

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. An object-oriented method of collecting information regarding a plurality of target
5 applications in an application unit, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a first one of the plurality of target applications through an interface,
by a monitoring device, a request to send first information regarding monitored usage of the
first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination through a
first communication protocol using a first data format; and

10 sending, by a protocol processor, the first information to the first predetermined
destination through the first communication protocol, wherein the protocol processor is
configured to send data through a plurality of different communication protocols.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein

15 the first data format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated
format and eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format, and

the first communication protocol includes one of Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
(SMTP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and local disk.

20 3. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving from a second one of the plurality of target applications through the
interface, by the monitoring device, a request to send second information regarding monitored
usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined
destination through a second communication protocol using a second data format, wherein the

25 first communication protocol is different from the second communication protocol; and

sending, by the protocol processor, the second information to the second
predetermined destination through the second communication protocol.

4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the first data format is different from
30 the second data format.

5. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the first communication protocol is different from the second communication protocol.

6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of sending, by the protocol processor, the first information further comprises:
creating a first software class having a declared virtual function;
creating a second software class derived from the first software class having a first definition of the declared virtual function; and
executing the first definition.

7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein the step of executing the first definition includes one of

saving the first information to a local disk,
sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through SMTP using a text mail body format,
sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through SMTP using Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME),
sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through FTP using a text file format, and
sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through FTP using a binary file format.

8. An object-oriented system for collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an application unit, the system comprising:

a monitoring device configured to receive from a first one of the plurality of target applications through an interface, a request to send first information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination through a first communication protocol using a first data format; and

a protocol processor configured to send data through a plurality of different communication protocols, wherein the protocol processor is configured to send the first information to the first predetermined destination through the first communication protocol.

9. The system according to Claim 8, wherein
the first data format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated
format and XML format, and

5 the first communication protocol includes one of SMTP, FTP and local disk.

10. The system according to Claim 8, wherein
the monitoring device is configured to receive from a second one of the plurality of
target applications through the interface, a request to send second information regarding
10 monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second
predetermined destination through a second communication protocol using a second data
format, wherein the first communication protocol is different from the second communication
protocol, and

15 the protocol processor is configured to send the second information to the second
predetermined destination through the second communication protocol.

11. The system according to Claim 10, wherein the first data format is different from
the second data format.

20 12. The system according to Claim 10, wherein the first communication protocol is
different from the second communication protocol.

13. The system according to Claim 8, wherein the protocol processor is configured to
create a first software class having a declared virtual function, to create a second software
25 class derived from the first software class having a first definition of the declared virtual
function, and to execute the first definition.

14. The system according to Claim 13, wherein the first definition includes
instructions to perform one of the steps of
30 saving the first information to a local disk,

sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through SMTP using a text mail body format,

sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through SMTP using MIME,

5 sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through FTP using a text file format, and

sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through FTP using a binary file format.

10 15. A program product for collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an application unit, the program product comprising a computer readable medium embodying program instructions for causing an object-oriented system to perform the steps of:

receiving from a first one of the plurality of target applications through an interface,
15 by a monitoring device, a request to send first information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination through a first communication protocol using a first data format; and

sending, by a protocol processor, the first information to the first predetermined destination through the first communication protocol, wherein the protocol processor is
20 configured to send data through a plurality of different communication protocols.

16. The program product according to Claim 15, wherein
the first data format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated
format and XML format, and

25 the first communication protocol includes one of SMTP, FTP and local disk.

17. The program product according to Claim 15, wherein the program instructions cause the system to further perform the steps of:

receiving from a second one of the plurality of target applications through the
30 interface, by the monitoring device, a request to send second information regarding monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined

destination through a second communication protocol using a second data format, wherein the first communication protocol is different from the second communication protocol; and sending, by the protocol processor, the second information to the second predetermined destination through the second communication protocol.

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18. The program product according to Claim 17, wherein the first data format is different from the second data format.

10 19. The program product according to Claim 17, wherein the first communication protocol is different from the second communication protocol.

20. The program product according to Claim 15, wherein the step of sending, by the protocol processor, the first information further comprises:

15 creating a first software class having a declared virtual function;
creating a second software class derived from the first software class having a first definition of the declared virtual function; and
executing the first definition.

20 21. The program product according to Claim 20, wherein the step of executing the first definition includes one of

saving the first information to a local disk,
sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through SMTP using a text mail body format,
sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through SMTP using MIME,
25 sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through FTP using a text file format, and
sending the first information to the first predetermined destination through FTP using a binary file format.

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